

# Friends of the Antelope Valley Indian Museum



P.O. Box 1171 Lancaster, California 93584

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# Museum to Reopen in September!!

By Peggy Ronning, AV Indian Museum Curator

The museum will reopen on September 18<sup>th</sup>. The hours will be Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Admission will be \$3 for adults. Children age 12 and under are free.

State Parks and FAVIM are planning a grand reopening celebration the first weekend in October. The celebration is still in the early planning stages, but we hope to have Native story tellers, dancers, and artists.

The construction phase of the Museum Stabilization project will be finished by the end of May. In May SCE brought in a new power line for the geothermal heating and cooling equipment. Shelby Electrical connected the new power service to the museum.

Any FAVIM members who run into the Bowie Contractors staff, especially onsite manager Jim Avery, should thank them for the outstanding job they did on the Museum Stabilization Project. Bowie Contractors were exceptionally careful to preserve the historic features of the museum while completing this complicated project.

In July, State Parks museum curators and exhibibt designers and conservator Alex Reyes-Vizzuett will return to help put the museum collection back on exhibit. Most of the exhibits will be the same, but there will be new LED lighting in the display cases in California Hall and the Southwest Room. Object labels created by State Parks will be updated with larger printing, so they will be easier to read. Many of the baskets and cradleboards will have new display mounts that will provide better support.

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A view of a display case in California Hall with the new LED lights.



A view of the geothermal control vault in the parking lot. From the surface all you can see are the metal plates, but they actually hide a very extensive vault!

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#### A TRIBUTE TO AN OLD FRIEND

By Anne Kittlitz, FAVIM Historian

### Barbara DuBois August 11, 1921 - December 25, 2009

We recently learned of the death of Barbara Du Bois. Barbara was a dedicated Indian Museum volunteer, and will be remembered as a very friendly lady always willing to help. She was in the first Docent training class in 1981 (along with husband Harry), and after graduating, spent many years giving tours to school children. Also she took on several other volunteer positions at the museum. She was Touch Table Chairman and was often seen at her table during open house weekends, helping children learn about our Native Americans. Another job she took on was training new volunteers.

Barbara called herself a "professional volunteer" as she worked in many community organizations over the years: Girls Scouts, Allied Arts, United Way, Toastmistress's Club, and DAR to name a few. It is amazing she was able to devote so much of her time to the Museum as well.

It is hard to think of Barbara without remembering Harry, as he was on the early Advisory Council, which became our Friends group. I think it would be safe to say that through his involvement, Barbara became involved with Indian Museum work. Eventually they moved to San Diego to be near their family. They had three daughters, and at the time of Barbara's death, she and Harry had been married 63 years.

They had a unique sign on their front door that read: "Du Bois and De Girls".

Those who knew Barbara will remember her with fondness and always feel fortunate to have worked with such a special lady at the Indian Museum.



Barbara DuBois

# Volunteer Opportunities

Have you always wanted to share your love of the museum collection with the public? Would you enjoy teaching school children about the Native peoples of the Antelope Valley? Are you special event planning enthusiast? Do you just like pounding acorns?

If you answered, "Yes!" to any or or all of these questions, you would enjoy volunteering at the Antelope Valley Indian Museum with fun, likeminded people.

We are looking for:

- Weekend volunteers to answer visitor questions in the museum
- Docents to lead school programs on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Lots of volunteers to plan and stage the Grand Reopening Celebration
- Weekend volunteers to run the touch table

Call Peggy at (661) 946-3055 for more information about volunteer opportunities.



A view of the SCE crew installing the new power pole next to the old pole in the picnic area. Story on Page 1

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#### Report on CALPA Annual Conference Part 1

By Betsy Matheny and Don Borchers

The California League of Park Associations CALPA held its Annual Conference in Morro Bay on April 8th – 11th. The Morro Bay Inn where the conference was held is adjacent to the Museum of Natural History at Morro Bay State Park. There were numerous State Parks, Beaches and Reserves for the attendees to visit. This report will be broken into two pieces. Part One will pertain to Thursday and Friday events. Part Two will cover the last two days of the conference.

Although the conference this year was smaller than previous years, CALPA put on a wide variety of seminars, classes, and interpretive programs for the association members. On the first night a Reception and Art Show was held at the Museum of Natural History. For those who braved the cold and wind, an Astronomy Program was held after dark at the museum.

The next day, six worthwhile sessions were held. After the opening remarks, there was a report on the California State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund Act of 2010 in which CALPA and the State Parks Foundation have a Save Our State Parks proposition to add \$18.00 a year to our vehicle registration fee that will be on this November's ballot. It will remove the State Parks from the General Fund and all State Parks will be completely funded by this fee. Everyone who has a current CA automobile registration will have free entry into our State Parks. Tour fees, camping, golfing, and museum fees etc. will still be extra. If this does not pass, the California State Parks will be drastically cut and changed. There is a website www.yesforstateparks.com that has the proposition wording and why this is so essential to our Parks survival.

There were morning and early afternoon sessions on effective campaigns and communications with both members and the public. The lunch program had an excellent talk by the concessionaire in Old Town San Diego

Park who took over from a failing out-of-state large business concession. He is a small businessman who has re-made the Park into a thriving, vibrant, interesting place to visit. A slide show and talk by the author and main photographer of a small book entitled Wildflowers of San Luis Obispo County rounded out lunch.

That afternoon and evening a trip to the Hearst Castle was featured. A new self-guided Garden and Vistas Tour which was held entirely outside the buildings after they had closed for the day. A barbeque and entertainment rounded out the evening. Part 2 will be reported on in the next newsletter.



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#### FAVIM

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.avim.parks.ca.gov

Your membership is important! It needs to be renewed each September, except in the case of a Life Membership. Please make your membership checks payable to Friends of the Antelope Valley Indian Museum (or FAVIM) and mail to P.O. Box 1171, Lancaster, California 93584. FAVIM raises funds to support projects and activities at the Antelope Valley Indian Museum. If you are not yet a member and would like to support the Museum, receive a quarterly FAVIM Bulletin and a 10% discount on Gift Shop purchases, please send your name, address and check to the return address on this bulletin. The Gift Shop is currently located in the State Park Office at 43779 15th St. West in Lancaster, during Museum closure.

Dues are:

Individual \$15 Organization \$35 Family \$20 Patron \$50

Life \$200

If your name or address on this bulletin is incorrect, or if you have moved, please call 661-942-0662 or mail the correction to the return address on this bulletin.

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